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Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 09/062,113  
Filed: April 17, 1998  
Title: Novel Proteins and Methods for Producing the Proteins  
Applicants: Goto *et al.*  
Atty. Docket: 16991.012

Sir:

**Applicants' Inquiry Concerning Suspension of Action by  
the Examiner Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.103 and MPEP 709**

Pursuant to an official communication mailed February 21, 2002 regarding suspension of prosecution of the above-referenced application, Applicants respectfully request that a status update of this application be provided to the undersigned as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew S. Brenc (Reg. No. 45,534)